Pakistan based militants killed near Katra, Jammu

3259. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether five Pakistan based militants were killed by security forces just 15 kilometre from Katra base town for shrine of renowned Vaishno Devi in Jammu and Kashmir in March, 2002;

(b) whether Government has strengthened the security in this region because lakhs of pilgrims visit Vaishno Devi every day; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENIVIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) On 8.3.2002,5 terrorists were killed in an encounter with Security Forces near Gobian Nullah at village Gobian Palkhandi under Police Station Katra, District Udhampur, which is about 21 Kms from Katra. Two Police Constables also sustained injuries in the encounter. The area being hilly, the precipice separating the hill on which Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine is located and Gobian is very steep making it virtually impossible for the shrine to be accessed from that side.

(b) and (c) The State Government has informed that important religious places not only in Jammu province but also elsewhere in the State are guarded by static guards which have been provided in addition to the area security. Following the Gobian incident, Director General of Police, J&K took a special review meeting and immediate steps to strengthen the security arrangement has been initiated accordingly.

The Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine including the route from Katra is guarded by CRPF conjointly with the State Police and a number of security rings are in place around the shrine.

Mechanism to monitor use of Hindi

3260. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism for monitoring use of Hindi by different Ministries/Departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has been noticed that there is little or no use of Hindi by our delegations on official occasions abroad or within the country; and